

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 PER-01 MMO-01 /019 W

-----057922 181405Z /41/15

R 170500Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7268

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CONFIDENTIAL SUVA 0614

CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

EA/EX, MANILA FOR RCO

STATE FOR OC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMTC, ASEC, FJ

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS

1. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, THIS POST HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO SEVERAL CONFLICTING OPINIONS AS TO WHAT SORT OF COMMUNICATIONS SET-UP WE COULD EXPECT ONCE WE MOVED INTO THE NEW OFFICE BUILDING. THE THREE OPINIONS WERE THAT:

A. WE WOULD KEEP OUR PRESENT EQUIPMENT AND NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES WOULD BE INSTITUTED.

B. OUR EQUIPMENT WOULD BE UPGRADED TO SEVENS.

C. THAT WE WERE IN THE FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR TERP.

2. POST WOULD LIKE TO GET THE "OFFICIAL OPINION" ON WHAT TO EXPECT AND WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT ITS VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE:

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A. PRESENT SITUATION. POST IS AT PRESENT USING RECONDITIONED HW-28'S THAT WERE TRANSFERRED TO US FROM VIETNAM. EQUIPMENT IS SUBJECT TO NUMEROUS BREAKDOWNS AND BECAUSE THE COMM TECH IS LOCATED IN CANBERRA AND HAS MANY OTHER PRIORITIES, WE OFTEN ONLY HAVE ONE MACHINE FUNCTIONING. UNIT IS STAFFED WITH ONE FULL TIME CRO. AMBASSADOR'S SECRETARY SERVES AS BACKUP COMMUNICATOR. SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FULLTIME CRO POSITION IN 1977, STATE

DEPARTMENT STAFF HAS INCREASED FROM 5 TO 7, INCLUDING A FULLTIME RESIDENT AMBASSADOR. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY PROGRAM HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO INCLUDE A FULL TIME RESIDENT PAO AND FINALLY, POST IS ANTICIPATING THE ARRIVAL OF AN ALREADY APPROVED TWO PERSON REGIONAL AID MISSION. ALL THESE FACTORS HAVE COMBINED TO INCREASE THE TRAFFIC HANDLED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. CRO ESTIMATES TRAFFIC HAS TRIPIED OVER HIS TOUR HERE AND SHOULD INCREASE EVEN MORE WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE DCM, NEW ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICER AND TWO PERSON AID MISSION.

B. POST RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) EQUIPMENT. POST REQUESTS THAT AS A MINIMUM, WE BE PROVIDED WITH SEVENS. PRESENT EQUIPMENT IS SUBJECT TO NUMEROUS BREAKDOWNS AND IS ALREADY TAXED TO THE LIMITS BY PRESENT WORKLOADS.

(2) PERSONNEL. POST REQUESTS THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATOR POSITION IN EARLY FY 79. PRESENT STAFFING IS BARELY ADEQUATE TO MEET PRESENT REQUIREMENTS AND WILL BE CLEARLY INADEQUATE AS POST EXPANDS. ALSO SINCE AMBASSADOR'S SECRETARY IS NOW THE ONLY AMERICAN SECRETARY AT POST, AN ILLNESS OR ACCIDENT BY THE CRO LEAVES US WITH A SWAMPED BACKUP COMMUNICATOR AND NO AMERICAN SECRETARIAL COVERAGE.

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3. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES AND AN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT AS TO WHAT WE CAN EXPECT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014